

POL.A.04.06 - Procurement Policy

The Board of Commissioners recognizes the need that materials, supplies, equipment and services of the quality and quantity required to operate the District be specified, described, and procured in a manner that provides for full and free competition among potential suppliers. Each procurement action will be fully documented consistent with District purchasing procedures. Any variance from the policy must have prior approval of the Board.

Formal Bidding

Formal competitive sealed bids consistent with this policy will be solicited on all procurements except:

- Those that are clearly identified and justified in writing as "sole source" and that are approved by the Board in advance of purchase.
- Those purchases of an emergency nature that requires immediate implementation in order to eliminate major problems and that are approved by the Executive Director and authorized by the Board.
- Those purchases specifically excluded from the bidding process by Illinois State Statutes.
- Those whose cost is less than \$20,000.00 and that are approved by the Executive Director.

Requests for formal bids for those procurements costing \$20,000.00 or more will be formally and publicly advertised. At least one notice will be published in the local newspaper not less than 14 days before the bids are "closed". Sealed bids will remain sealed until the formal "bid opening" is conducted by a designated District employee with at least one witness at the place, time and date specified in the advertisement. Upon recommendation of the Executive Director and approval of the Board, the award will be made to the lowest qualified bidder meeting the specifications and other required terms and conditions of the procurement. The right is reserved to reject any bids if such action is deemed by the Board to be in the best interests of the District.

Informal Quotations

Purchases costing more than \$500.00 but less than \$20,000.00 shall have at least three quotes, whenever possible, that are solicited by either written or oral invitation. Requests for informal quotations for purchases in this range need not be formally and publicly advertised. Certain items routinely purchased on a repetitive basis may be purchased from selected prequalified vendors. These items and vendors shall be reviewed annually, in January, by department heads with the Director of Finance and approved by the Executive Director. Upon approval by the Executive Director or his/her designee, the award is made to the lowest and best quotation meeting the specifications, delivery date and other required terms and conditions of purchase.

Purchasing Considerations

Economy of Resources. In attempt to provide economies of scale and cheaper products, the district will continually look for opportunities to jointly purchase items and services. The district reviews the State of Illinois Joint Purchase for many items and uses a competitively bid contract with U.S. Communities through the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA). These items must be of similar quality to those that can be bought out of a contract.

Local Purchasing. Park District personnel should seek to purchase goods and services from Oak Park vendors when they are of comparable quality to goods or services purchased from vendors not located in Oak Park. The District will promote purchasing from Oak Park vendors by allowing an additional 15% to be spent on goods and services under \$10,000 and 10% on items \$10,000 to \$15,000. Approval for goods and services over \$15,000 must be given by the Executive Director.

Environmentally Aware Purchasing. Park District personnel should seek to reduce the environmental damages associated with their purchases by increasing their acquisition of environmentally preferable products and services to the extent feasible, consistent with price, performance, availability, and safety considerations. These products should have a third party certification of environmentally preferred status such as the Green Seal or Energy Star when feasible.

Environmentally Preferable Products include:

- Products that reduce greenhouse gas emissions or are made with renewable energy
- Products that reduce the use of toxins hazardous to the environment and employee and public health
- Products that contain the highest possible percentage of post-consumer recycled content
- Products that reduce air and water pollution
- Products that reduce waste
- Suppliers who strive to improve their environmental performance and provide environmentally preferable products, and who can document the supply-chain impacts of their efforts
- Reusable products
- Products that serve several functions (e.g., copier/printers, multipurpose cleaners) and reduce the overall number of products purchased

The District will promote buying the environmentally preferable products by allowing an additional 15% to be spent on items under \$10,000 and 10% on items \$10,000 to \$15,000. Approval for goods and services over \$15,000 must be given by the Executive Director.